



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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Helping Virginians Stay Warm This Winter

~ 2011 Fuel Assistance Application Deadline Is Nov. 14 ~

RICHMOND – Applications for Fuel Assistance from the Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are being accepted now through Monday, Nov. 14. Families and individuals must apply at their [local department of social services](#).

“We know that many Virginians are struggling to make ends meet and will need help staying warm this winter – especially seniors, the disabled and low-income families with children,” said VDSS Commissioner Martin D. Brown. “LIHEAP is a federally funded program intended to supplement a portion of the expenses associated with annual heating and cooling costs. We’re encouraging those who think they may need assistance to submit their applications as soon as possible.”

To qualify for Fuel Assistance, a one-person household’s maximum gross monthly income cannot exceed \$1,180. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income level is \$2,422.

The Fuel Assistance Program assists with various types of energy sources, including electricity, natural and liquid propane gas, oil, kerosene, coal and wood. VDSS’ Energy Assistance Program is funded by the federal LIHEAP block grant. LIHEAP provides monies to states to assist low-income households in meeting their home energy needs.

Last year, nearly 145,000 households received assistance. For more information on the Energy Assistance Program, a pre-screening tool and application, visit <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.cgi>.

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Interviews are available upon request. For media inquiries only, contact Melissa Perdue, VDSS, (804) 726-7111 or melissa.perdue@dss.virginia.gov. The general public should contact their local department of social services.